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NICOLE KIDMAN GETS EVIL FOR "PADDINGTON." PAGE 14

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Airbnb rent scare

Sharing economy. Opponents say the home-renting service breaks the law and raises rents in a city already hard-hit with rising living costs; proponents say it offers opportunity.

PAGE 02

Like Uber and other mobile apps of the "sharing economy," Airbnb's disruptive nature has impacted New York City business. / CARLOS LLAMAS, METRO

PBA chief Pat Lynch faces challenger

PAGE 04

Go country with the Beekman Boys

PAGE 15

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 Eagles offseason: What's up with Marcus Mariota?

2 VIDEO Jessie J can sing with her mouth closed and it is weird

3 Actress Heidi Mueller gets engaged to Cowboys running back De-Marco Murray

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Friends, foes of Airbnb take fight to City Hall

Sharing. The home-renting company has come under fire for its business practices.

Foes of Airbnb descended on City Hall Tuesday morning to criticize the company's business practices. / CHESTER JESUS SORIA, METRO

Hundreds of New Yorkers stood on either side of City Hall's gates on Tuesday morning. The crowd to the left brandished hand-written signs with words like parasite and selfish.

To the right, folks wore stickers, shirts and carried tote bags while holding aloft printed posters in support of Airbnb.

A longtime target of legislators demanding regulation and transparency, the apartment sharing site Airbnb defended its practice before City Council members, who accused the company of looking out for its bottom line.

"My concern is about all New Yorkers. Your concern is about your revenue," Manhattan Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal said to a panel of Airbnb executives at a hearing on the company's operations.

"That's not true," David Hantman, Airbnb's director of global public policy, responded before asking if it was worth giving fines to New Yorkers who may be breaking the law "once in a while."

Airbnb and its supporters spent most of the hours-long hearing defending the company — which had an estimated market capitalization of $10 billion last year — as a way some New Yorkers make ends meet.

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about Airbnb's PR and legal woes.

Its critics, including all the city and state lawmakers at the hearing, argued Airbnb enables illegal rentals and contributes to a lack of affordable housing.

A report last fall by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said the site profited by $40 million on illegal listings, and that 70 percent of the units found on Airbnb were illegal. One user managed 272 separate listings and raked in $6.8 million in revenue, the report found.

Shortly before the hearing, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer stood with protesters to accuse Airbnb of exploiting owners and renters who might unknowingly risk their home with an illegal sublet through the site.

"Everyone wins in a shared economy," Brewer said. "With Airbnb, everyone loses."

Brooklyn Councilman Antonio Reynoso also blasted the website and illegal management companies for profiting off of struggling communities.

In Bushwick, current Airbnb listings for 1-bedroom apartments have a median nightly cost of about $125 a night, or $3,750 a month. The most expensive listing is $235 a night, or $7,050 a month.

A December 2014 report by real estate company MNS found 1-bedrooms were renting in the neighborhood for an average $2,048 a month for a long-term lease.

"In my district there are over 2,000 listings on Airbnb," Reynoso said. "That's 2,000 opportunities for affordable housing for my residents."

Kathleen Watson, 69, rents out three rooms in a building she owns in Brooklyn through Airbnb to break even. Previously, she rented her rooms to foreign exchange students before joining Airbnb.

"As an individual homeowner, I would think in America you could do what you want with your house," Watson said.

Quoted

"My concern is about all New Yorkers. Your concern is about your revenue."

Manhattan Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal, to a panel of Airbnb execs at a hearing on the company's operations

CHESTER SORIA
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chester.soria@metro.us

You'll be glad for that furry hood today. / GETTY IMAGES

Winter weather. Get ready for a snowy commute this afternoon

New Yorkers should get ready for a snowy commute home on today.

Joe Pollina, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said 1-2 inches of snow are expected after 3 p.m.

"There's a higher chance for snow in the evening commute," Pollina said.

Temperatures will be in the low-30s throughout today, with an overnight low of 29.

The city has issued a snow alert and is preparing for snow removal this afternoon. Alternate side parking remained in effect as of Tuesday afternoon.

By the numbers

1-2

Expected snowfall, in inches

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Fire

Garner memorial burns on MLK Day night in apparent accident

A memorial of flowers and other items left at the site where Eric Garner was killed on Staten Island

People congregate near Eric Garner's memorial for a candlelight vigil in Staten Island on Dec. 5. To the right is the ruined memorial. / GETTY IMAGES, TWITTER

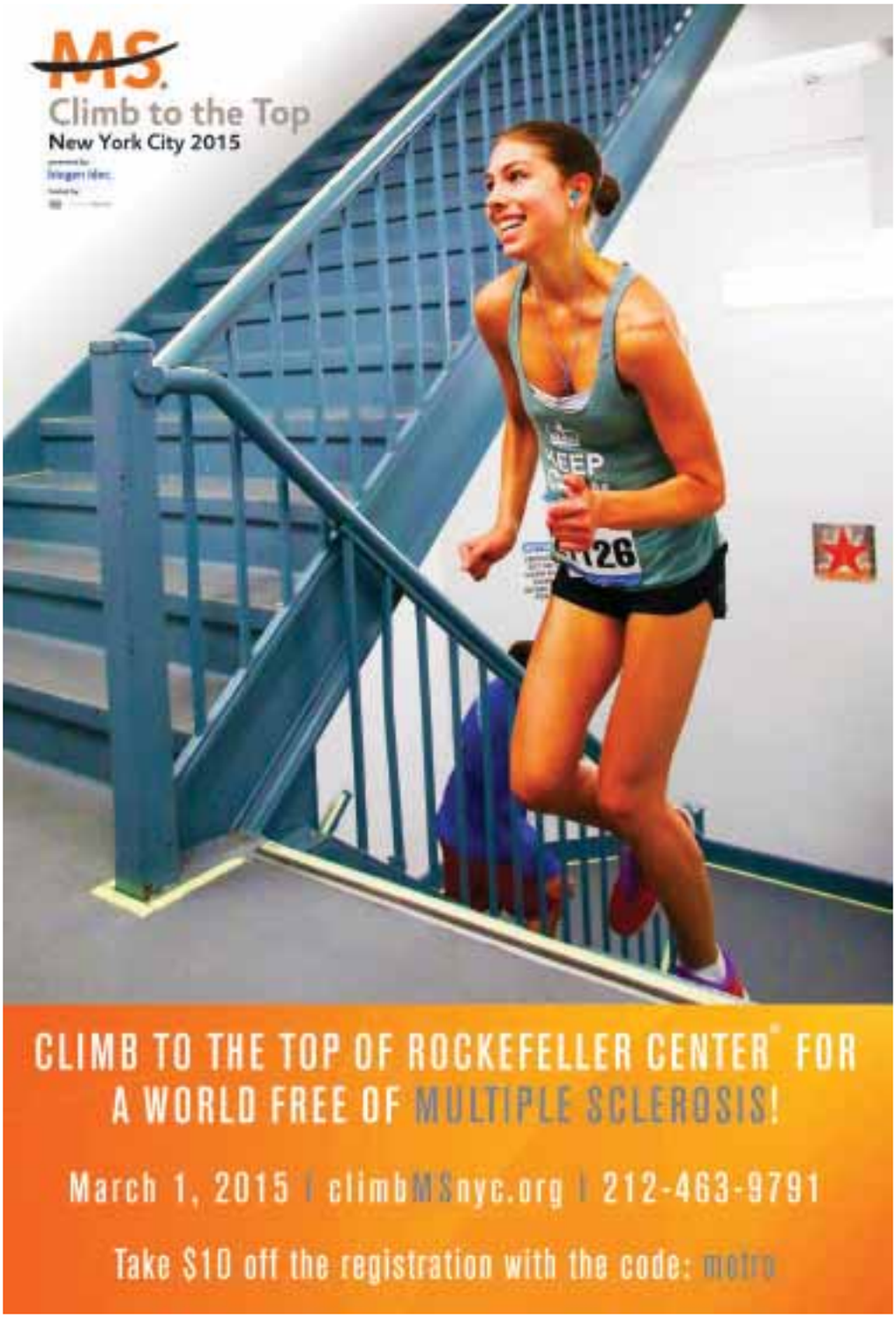
ignited on Monday night, but officials are calling the fire an accident.

Garner's daughter, Erica Garner, said on Twitter she believes the fire was deliberately set. Fire and police officials say candles left at the site started the accidental blaze.

The FDNY said six units were sent to the intersection of Victory and Bay Streets in Tompkinsville at 10:24 p.m. on Monday. Just two units were used to extinguish the fire, and the scene was cleared at 10:43 p.m.

Around midnight, Erica Garner tweeted, "lord forgive these evil people who burned down POPS memorial this is really sick my struggle still cont," and called for an investigation.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE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PBA chief Lynch faces leadership challenge

Critic. A 27-year NYPD veteran says the current leadership has failed.

Lynch / GETTY IMAGES

Police union chief Pat Lynch will face a challenger for the first time in eight years.

Patrolmen's Benevolent Association trustee Brian Fusco announced Tuesday that he'll run against the four-term president in the union's spring election.

Fusco, 47, is the face of a contingent within the PBA ranks called "Strengthen the Shield," that's ready to face off against Lynch.

A 27-year veteran working in South Brooklyn, Fusco released a statement early Tuesday criticizing Lynch's 15-year tenure without ever naming him.

"The current leadership of the PBA has repeatedly failed its members, fumbling crucial legislation, disappearing at critical moments and grandstanding at the expense of solutions," Fusco said in the statement. "It's time for steady and effective leadership."

In a response, Lynch issued a statement that he welcomed fresh voices in the 23,000-member union's democratic process.

"Unfortunately, these voices are neither fresh nor do they offer new ideas," Lynch wrote.

CHESTER SORIA
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Solidarity

De Blasio in Paris to show support

Mayor Bill de Blasio traveled to Paris on Tuesday to show solidarity for the 17 people killed at the Charlie Hebdo newspaper and other terrorist attacks in France earlier this month.

"Paris and New York have walked the same path in so many ways," de Blasio said. METRO

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Pope. Visit will be 'excitement on steroids,' says NYC monsignor

With Pope Francis set to visit New York City later this year, local charities are hoping to get a piece of the people's pontiff.

"When a pope comes to visit in New York, there's excitement. But with Pope Francis, it will be excitement on steroids," said Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, executive director of Catholic Charities. "I think this pope has created such excitement because of what he's done to enable the world to understand the basic goodness of the message of Jesus."

Soup kitchens, food pantries and centers that help immigrants and refugees would be the best place for the pope to visit to "get a good understanding of some of the hurting," Sullivan said.

"It's one of the better places to see how the church is reaching out to the poorest," Sullivan said.

"We've been saying, how can we get him to come and see, and somehow just be in touch with some of the people we minister to," said Elena Miranda of the Sisters of Charity New York.

"Every single Catholic organization in the northeast is thinking the same thing," Miranda added.

"He's totally into social justice, so people feel it," Miranda said. "His kindness to people is palpable, and I think this visit will surpass any previous from a pope in the United States."

The pope waves. / GETTY IMAGES

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Not slowing down. Hard-working Sam Chin is reversing the stereotype of lazy Millennials

SECOND SHIFT

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Bio

Sam Chin

Age: 24
Residency: Upper West Side
Lives: With two roommates
Number of jobs: 3

You have three jobs. How do you do it all?
Nine to five, I work at Myriad Restaurant Group where I handle all the marketing and PR for restaurants like Nobu, Batard and Tribeca Grill. I'm also a freelance publicist and consultant, so I focus on that after work. I also produce and host my own events, so I focus on those on a project by project basis. Every week is different because it depends on what projects I'm working on.

Do your bosses at your day job mind that you do freelance PR work on the side?
They don't mind because they know whatever I'm doing [with other brands] is very different than what I do for them.

How do you find your freelance clients?
So far it's all been word of mouth. For the Italian restaurant, a friend who came to one of my events emailed me about it asking if I wanted to do their social media and I of course said yes.

Samantha Chin / CLIFTON PRESCOD

With all these jobs, do you still have time to see your friends?
The great part about hosting and producing these events is that I can invite my friends. Otherwise, I don't think I'd have time. I kind of built in friend time and personal time into my work, which is good.

Overall, are you happy balancing these three jobs?
I'm very content. I think all the work I'm doing now will pay off, so I don't mind working this much because it's all toward something bigger and better. I wish I had more time to sleep, but I'm very thankful for everything I have. I'm juggling three jobs when some people don't even have one. I think it's funny when people say millennials are lazy and don't like to work. I like working.

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The White House took some of the suspense away from the speech this year, sending Obama on the road during the past two weeks to roll out themes he plans to highlight. / GETTY IMAGES

Obama talks trade deals and tax hike in speech

Trips. Obama will travel to Idaho and Kansas this week to continue to promote his ideas.

President Barack Obama proposed to hike taxes on the wealthy in his State of the Union speech Tuesday night, an idea already panned by Republicans in Congress who want him to aggressively pursue trade deals with Asia and Europe.

Obama said he wants to reach out to Republicans who support trade deals his administration has pursued, over the objections of some of his fellow Democrats.

That idea is popular with Democrats, who are looking beyond Obama's tenure to 2016 elections. But it seems dead on arrival with Republicans who control both houses of Congress.

Obama's aim is to help those left behind by an economic revival taking hold six years into his tenure, which began with the Democrat facing a crippling financial crisis. He has said trade deals could help expand markets for American goods and services.

Obama also updated Americans on the threat of Islamic extremists, two weeks after 17 people were killed in attacks in France.

Obama defended his decision to seek to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba. Alan Gross, the U.S. aid worker whose release from a Cuban prison helped pave the way toward restoring diplomatic ties with Cuba, was among Michelle Obama's guests at the speech. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Will we accept an economy where only a few of us do spectacularly well? Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort?"

Obama

Tax increase

$320B

Obama also proposed boosting middle class benefits through tax increases on the wealthy and financial firms adding up to $320 billion over 10 years.

Orrin Hatch

Republican accuses Obama of 'class warfare'

The Senate's top tax law writer accused President Barack Obama on Tuesday of undertaking "class warfare" with his plan to raise taxes on wealthier Americans to help the middle class.

Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the proposals Obama is expected to set out in his State of the Union address on Tuesday evening would violate principles of simplicity and "revenue neutrality" that Hatch said are key to any real tax reform.

Senior Senate Republican Orrin Hatch / GETTY IMAGES

"This plan appears to be more about redistribution, with added complexity, and class warfare, directed at job-creating small businesses, than about tax reform," Hatch said in remarks prepared for delivery in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

He said this was "unfortunate, because we're going to need real leadership from the White House — not just liberal talking points — if tax reform is going to be successful." **REUTERS**

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Cops say gunman targeted Boston doc

Shooting. Police were seeking a motive after a doctor was shot and the gunman killed himself.

EMTs responding to the hospital. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Police on Tuesday were still trying to learn why a gunman walked into Brigham and Women's Hospital and shot a doctor twice before fatally shooting himself in an exam room. The gunfire prompted some workers to barricade themselves in hospital rooms while others fled the building.

The shooting occurred just after 11 a.m. on what had been a normal and busy day on the second floor of the Carl J. and Ruth Shapiro Cardiovascular Center, at 75 Francis St. in the Longwood area of Boston.

Police identified the victim as Stephen Pasceri, 55, of Millbury. The doctor suffered what Boston Police Commissioner William Evans described as "life-threatening injuries." WBZ reported the doctor was cardiac surgeon Michael Davidson, although neither Boston Police nor the hospital would confirm that.

Police were interviewing witnesses and seeking a motive, Evans said at an afternoon press conference at the hospital. He said the gunman walked into the hospital asking for the doctor he later shot.

Witnesses described the suspect to police as about six-feet, wearing glasses, beige khakis and a blue sweater.

Policing arriving at the hospital searched the second floor of the building, where they found the man dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, along with a gun, in an exam room.

He had shot the doctor in a nearby lobby area, Evans said. The doctor was rushed to Brigham and Women's emergency room.

Evans said police don't believe the gunman was a patient of the doctor. It was unclear what kind of gun was used or where in his body the doctor was wounded. The doctor, according to the hospital, was in surgery as of late Tuesday afternoon.

Initially, the hospital said in two separate statements that the gunman had been apprehended, but Evans said at the press conference he had taken his own life with a single gunshot.

"It makes me sick to my stomach," said JoAnne Wilson of East Falmouth, who was visiting her brother in the hospital.

"I've come out of those elevators so many times in the last week. You never feel like that would happen here. You feel bad for the doctor," she said as news helicopters buzzed overhead.

Quoted

"Why and for whatever reason is something we're looking into." Evans

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THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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1 Johnny Depp finds movie stars trying to be rock stars 'sickening'

Attention actors who try to launch music careers: Stop it. You're making Johnny Depp sick. "That whole idea for me is a sickening thing, it's always just made me sick," Depp said while promoting "Mortdecai" in Berlin.

"I hate the idea, 'Come see me play guitar because you've seen me in 12 movies.' It shouldn't be. You want the people who are listening to the music to only be interested in the music." Firm but fair.

So, according to Depp's strict, Draconian take on how music should be appreciated, which of his fellow movie stars are in violation? Jared Leto certainly jumps to mind, as does Scarlett Johansson — hey, remember her album of Tom Waits covers? Yeah, no. Oh, and Russell Crowe has a band. And doesn't Gwyneth Paltrow like to sing, too? Man, they're all going to have some explaining to do when they see Depp at the next Millionaire Movie Stars Rotary Club meeting. But at least some good comes from all of this, as Depp insists, "You won't be hearing The Johnny Depp Band. That won't ever exist."

HUH? REMEMBER THIS GUY, JOHNNY?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 The 1975's Matt Healy still not dating Taylor Swift

Matt Healy, ostensibly the singer of the band The 1975, is becoming much better known as the guy who insists he's not dating Taylor Swift, despite photos of the pair together and his regular comments during interviews about meeting her. But God, guys, why do you keep bringing it up? He totally doesn't want to talk about it. Except he does: It's "all bloody fake. It's a farce," Healy insists during a recent radio interview. "We met each other, we exchanged numbers in the same way that a lot of people in this world kind of do, and we spoke occasionally. She's the biggest pop star in the world and I'm in Australia. There's no relationship of anything happening. It's just funny how people really, really buy into that." That's all fine and good, but why do you have to bag on Australia like that? What's wrong with Australia?

"For the last time, you guys, Taylor Swift and I are. Not. Dating."

3 Motley Crue sets its own expiration date

Unapologetic '80s rockers Motley Crue put an expiration date on their ongoing "final" tour, culminating in their last show ever as a band — which probably comes as a surprise to those of us who didn't realize the band was still together. The last leg begins in North America in July, winding down to a New Year's Eve show in the band's native Los Angeles. And in a signal that there continues to be no justice in the world, Alice Cooper will continue to serve as the band's opening act, which is exactly the opposite of how things should be. Regardless of how the years have treated Motley Crue, though, I can attest that "Kickstart my Heart" holds up surprisingly well.

4 Ansel Elgort and his high school sweetheart are back on

Apparently when "The Fault in Our Stars" star Ansel Elgort tweeted that he likes girls — a lot — he really meant just one girl in particular. Elgort has reportedly reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Violetta Komyshan, four months after they initially called it quits, according to Us Weekly. "They just missed each other. He didn't really see anyone else seriously while they were split," a source says.

Daily video

Jessie J has some freakish mutant powers

BBC / YOUTUBE

How well does pop star Jessie J know her hit "Bang Bang"? So well that she can sing it with her mouth closed. Yes, you read that right. "I discovered when I was little that I could pretend I was in a box," she revealed to Graham Norton during a visit to his talk show, and demonstrated a form of ventriloquism that does make her sound confined and muffled. "As I got older, I discovered that I could sing [the same way]." And then she does it, and it's startlingly clear and really disturbing.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Seth Rogen is glad his "American Sniper" comments were helpful, RuPaul loves a good exit strategy, Rita Wilson is feeling a bit alone out there, Kelly Osbourne doesn't appreciate yelling and Conan O'Brien is going to like the way he looks.

@Sethrogen: if you were having a slow news day, you're welcome for me giving you the opportunity to blow something completely out of proportion.

@RuPaul: Fave thing about NYC has always been the ability to escape most situations by simply saying the word 'Taxi'

@RitaWilson: Can someone respond to this so I can see if Twitter is working?

@KellyOsbourne: When U state your opinion w/ vicious anger your passions become pointless as it falls upon deaf ears! Learn 2 speak & I will care 2 hear you

@ConanOBrien: Nothing makes me feel sexier than overpaying for a blazer.

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Homemade pasta is worth the trip when it comes to Italian food

For me, I rate an Italian restaurant by its homemade pastas. I could eat pasta seven days a week, but fresh pasta is a treat worth looking for. I also find that if the homemade pasta is good, the tiramisu is also outstanding – a very happy correlation. I eat out more than most, so trust me on this one. Try these restaurants for fresh pasta that's sinfully good.

The Fiori per Nonna at Osteria Morini. / ANTHONY JACKSON

Da Andrea

35 W. 13th St. This tiny gem is a great, intimate space for a date, but you'll usually find people waiting outside for a table so be sure to make a reservation. The reasonable menu of fresh pastas starts at $12.50, the crusty bread is served hot, and the service is speedy. The carpaccio ($10.50) and the gnocchetti ($13) make a lovely meal. The homemade pappardelle with sweet sausage and truffle oil is also outstanding.

Gradisca

126 W. 13th St. On most days you will see Mama rolling fresh pasta at the front of the restaurant. So, yes, the pasta is fresh. Appetizers start at $12 and pastas at $22; my favorites are the gnocchi and the lasagna. Although the menu is slightly more expensive compared to others, the pasta is wonderful. The dining rooms are brick lined, dimly lit and a great spot for parties.

Osteria Morini

218 Lafayette St. Chef Michael White is one of my favorites. His creations are always perfectly light and flavorful, and on any given night you'll find 10 homemade pastas. My current favorite is tortelli de mele with an apple and sweet potato filling, porcini mushrooms and walnuts ($22). Pastas are half-price Mondays after 9 p.m. I even get pasta for dessert!

For exclusive commentary, visit Metro.us/blogs.

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MONICA DINATALE

Monica DiNatale is a Deals Expert and Author of "365 Guide New York City," a treasure trove of restaurant and bar specials, out in paperback and e-book. She has been featured as the Dining Expert for PIX 11 and "Good Day New York."

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‘ALI’ ONLY GETS BETTER WITH AGE

‘Ali’

Netflix Instant

Clint Eastwood had a great weekend, with “American Sniper” grossing Marvel money. Meanwhile, another stubborn director, Michael Mann, did not have a great weekend. His $80 million, cyber-thriller “Blackhat,” barely cracked the top 10. Mann has often had trouble with audiences. For every “The Last of the Mohicans,” “Heat,” or “Collateral,” there’s an underperformer like “Ali,” his underrated look at the pugilist (played by Will Smith).

At face value, it’s a comeback movie, charting the 10 years that included Muhammad Ali’s banishment from boxing to the “Rumble in the Jungle.” But it delights in denying audiences the usual biopic pleasures. It’s an odd bird in other ways. This is a film from 2001 that shows its hero triumphantly converting to Islam. The film’s best segment is its opening: a dizzying 10-minute montage backed by live Sam Cooke that contextualizes Ali in the Black Power movement. And the whole film is building not just to a victory but to a return to Africa. The movie gets better the more you revisit it.

STREAM THIS

Matt Prigge’s guide to what you can watch on the Internet.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Will Smith takes on the role of the legendary boxer in Michael Mann’s “Ali.” / PROVIDED

Netflix Instant

‘Pee-wee’s Big Adventure’

No one’s seeing “Big Eyes,” which is sad: It’s the most interesting Tim Burton film in ages. But you can see his loopy vehicle for Paul Reubens, in which he searches for his stolen bike.

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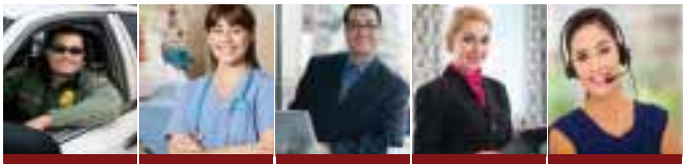

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Nicole Kidman loves being bad

Interview. The "Paddington" star is more comfortable as the villain — and is pretty handy with a knife.

Nicole Kidman says Stanley Kubrick once told her, "You're a character actress, Nicole. Don't play leading ladies. Go and find the character roles." And if her work in "Paddington" is any indication, he was onto something. Kidman revels in the role of a villainous taxidermist on a mission to kill, stuff and mount the titular talking bear.

"I was lucky because they had a pretty strong vision for [the character] when I came in," she says.

As a mother with two young girls at home, it would be understandable if Kidman had any reservations about getting evil on screen. "Initially, they were like, 'Oh no, please don't be the one that wants to hurt the bear," she says. "But now they understand the behind-the-scenes, and strangely enough, my 6-year-old really loves the villain character, which kind of worries me."

Any worry, though, was put to rest by the finished product. "It was really great because I got to watch the film with my mom, who is 74, and my 4-year-old and my 6-year-old. All of them were laughing at the same things — that's amazing," she says. And "Paddington" puts to rest an old filmmaking adage. "They always say if you have a great time making a movie, the movie's not going to be any good."

And her biggest takeaway from the film? One deadly new skill — that didn't quite make it into the movie. "I did learn how to throw knives, which they subsequently cut out of the film," Kidman admits. "I just remember [producer] David [Heyman] going, 'It's a children's movie!' I throw one knife now. But I'm saving my knife-throwing technique for another film. Or for real life!"

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Nicole Kidman slips into a villainous role — and a blonde bob — as an evil taxidermist out to stuff the talking bear hero of "Paddington." / LAURIE SPARHAM

DIRECTOR STANLEY KUBRICK ONCE TOLD NICOLE KIDMAN TO FIND CHARACTER ROLES.
GETTY IMAGES

Poor Mark Darcy

Wasn't Colin Firth supposed to be in this?

Ben Whishaw voices Paddington, but he wasn't the filmmakers first choice. "We started working with Colin Firth," director Paul King admits. "From Day One he said, 'I'm not sure my voice is going to turn out to be right.'"

How right Firth was. "We worked with him a lot and rehearsed with him a bit, and he's terrific, but as the animation emerged, you just didn't believe his voice coming out of this cub," King admits. "We tried doing some digital things to make him feel a little lighter, but it sounded so Smurf-y, so quickly. It just didn't feel right."

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Country living. If the lifestyle experts have one piece of advice, it's this: Slow down.

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Josh Kilmer-Purcell, left, and Brent Ridge / ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell might be cookbook and memoir authors, reality TV stars on the Cooking Channel's "The Fabulous Beekman Boys," and winners of "The Amazing Race" — but they're in no rush. The couple traded in big city bustle for quiet country life (not entirely by choice) and they're loving the change of pace.

"We were two Manhattanites with great careers in the city. Then in 2008, we both lost our jobs in the recession. And we had to figure out a way to reinvent ourselves," says Ridge, a physician who was VP of Healthy Living for Martha Stewart Omnimedia (Stewart blogged their 2013 wedding).

Kilmer-Purcell was an ad exec and author of two memoirs: "I Am Not Myself These Days," about his drag days, and "The Bucolic Plague," about the couple's weekend adventures fixing up the Beekman Mansion, a 200-year-old estate in Sharon Springs, New York.

When they found themselves out of work and the part-time country digs became a full-time residence, Ridge and Kilmer-Purcell's fast-paced lifestyle came to a halt.

Suddenly, they were learning how to live by the seasons. They started growing their own food, and a neighboring farmer brought his herd of dairy goats to their property — so they started a line of goat milk products. "Farm to table" took on a new, very literal meaning.

From there, they created the brand Beekman 1802, named for the year the house was built.

RACHEL VIGODA
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Instant gratification

Take-home philosophy

The biggest — and most rewarding — challenge in living seasonally was learning how to wait.

"Living in the city, it was always about instant gratification: Having what you wanted the second you wanted it," Ridge explains. "When we moved to the country and started growing our own food, starting having to drive 30 minutes to get to the nearest large store, we had to deal with delayed gratification — which makes us appreciate things so much more. It changed our whole philosophy on life."

PLUS

Start small

Plant a seed

"Consider planting just one thing in your house. One tomato plant or one pepper plant," Ridge says. "Then you can watch that process. ... Or if you love basil, plant it and deny yourself any basil until it's ready. You learn to appreciate it so much more."

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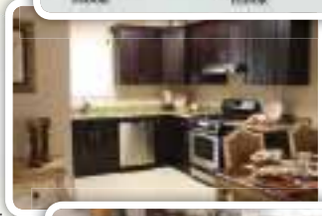

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179 Ludlow St. will feature floor-to-ceiling windows. / PROVIDED

Former 'rat castle' sells out in LES

Real estate. Seven years after construction started, 179 Ludlow finds buyers in less than two months.

A Lower East Side condominium building that was once nicknamed "the rat castle" in its slow-moving construction phase has sold out less than two months after sales finally launched.

The six floor-through units at 179 Ludlow St., near East Houston Street, are all under contract and are slated to close by next month, according to Douglas Elliman's Ariel Tirosh, who is handling sales at the nearly 13,000-square-foot building. Elliman officially began selling at the building, which is designed by Kleinmann Architects, in mid-November.

The final unit entered contract last week, Tirosh said. Michael Goldberg's Enclave Properties took over the long-delayed project in 2010 — four years after construction began.

The Village Voice dubbed the half-built structure a "rat castle" in 2008 due to an infestation at the abandoned construction site. "It went from the ugly duckling to the fancy swan," Tirosh said. "We priced it well and it moved wonderfully."

The duplex penthouse unit, which features a rooftop garden, is set to sell for $2.4 million. The second-floor apartment also comes with a private garden.

MARK MAURER

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

THE REAL DEAL

Market watch

Priciest

$35M

2 E. 70th St.,1A.
The most expensive property to come onto the market this week is a maisonette duplex in Lenox Hill, marketed by Sotheby's. This duplex offers an opportunity for townhouse living, with the amenities of co-op living. It features four bedrooms, four-and-a-half baths, and a grand marble entrance. Views of Central Park and the Frick gardens can be seen from all rooms. Residents will also have access to a gym and doorman.

Cheapest

$250K

140 W. 69th St. #88A. The least expensive property to come onto the market is a studio in Lincoln Square. Marketed by Bond New York, this eighth floor unit features city views. The building has a doorman, concierge, elevator, washer/dryer, a pied-a-terre and allows pets.

StreetEasy.com is a New York based Real Estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.

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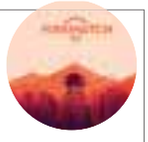
Top indie games to play in 2015

They may not have the same level of graphics as the titles from big gaming companies, but independent games pack plenty of play, likability and arguably more creativity. And thanks to easy-to-use development software and platforms, indies have never been more accessible. Here are our bets for the leading independent games of the new year. **WANISE MARTINEZ, MWN**

'Hyper Light Drifter'

In 2013, developers Heart Machine Games turned to Kickstarter for funding to the tune of $27,000. In the end, "Hyper Light Drifter" got $654,000, and soon players can enjoy this immersive RPG, whose gameplay happens in a dystopian, mystical future. Packed with slick animation and stylish pixel art, the game reminds us of "The Legend of Zelda" series, but with even more kinds of weapons, abilities, enemies and cool visual effects. **PS4, Xbox One, PS Vita, Wii U, PC, Linux, Mac and Ouya**

'Firewatch'



The story of "Firewatch" is set in the forests of Wyoming, a place where the player's only form of human interaction is a handheld radio. The game is filled with an atmosphere of dread and mystery, hinting that something really strange could happen at any moment. For those who are focusing on just the name, it's good to know that the worst thing you'll face won't be the impending danger of nature's flames. **PC, Mac and Linux**

'The Witness'

Created by Jonathan Blow, known for the prize-winning "Braid," "The Witness" took five years of development and stands among the most anticipated indie games of the year. This 3D, first-person adventure combines sophisticated puzzles with the ability to explore an isolated island. The gamer has to solve riddles in the middle of stunning landscapes, but they're not so simple and each one has its own rules. **PS4, PC and iOS**

'Gunsport'

In this riff on beach volleyball, gamers play in pairs to try and throw the ball at the goal or at the opponent's court. With very simple rules, this cyberpunk-esque game seems an excellent choice for those who want to have some retro-sporting fun. **PS4, Xbox One and PC**

'Wreckfest'

This racing title has been described as a fine successor to classics like "Street Rod," "FlatOut" and "Destruction Derby." It earned that distinction not only because of the superior graphics, but because one not only sees the effects of the impact but feels it too. **PC**

Trends. Stay on top of your fashion resolutions.

You've already decided to ditch junk food, ban the booze and go to the gym three times a week — but what about your personal style? To help keep you looking your best well after the excitement of the new year has fizzled, we've got some tips from Marissa Webb, creative director at Banana Republic.

Khaki is the new black

"Forget everything you thought you knew about khaki. It really is the key color for the spring," insists Webb. Don't believe her? Just look at some of the biggest spring fashion shows including Jason Wu, Ralph Lauren and Gucci. Webb's suggestions for the best pieces to incorporate the color into your wardrobe: "a go-to trench, a short sweater and soft, supple leather."

Use dresses as your go-to

Rotate your usual denim uniform with dresses. "They're more versatile than you think," says Webb. "Throw-on a pair of skinny jeans underneath, and wear it as a tunic by day and bare leg by night." For spring, Webb says to be on the look out for "modern takes on eyelet and lace in black, white, coral and violet."

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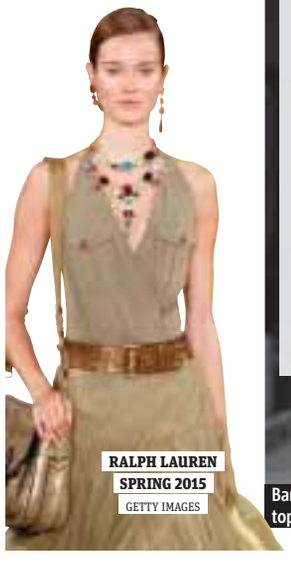

RALPH LAUREN SPRING 2015 GETTY IMAGES

Steal from the boys

This year, invest in staple masculine items, like a perfectly tailored suit with the one white shirt that will last you forever. Webb loves rocking a boy-meets-girl look: "It can be as literal as contrasting a boyfriend blazer with a sexy pair of super skinny jeans and heels," she says. "Or it could be finding pieces designed for women, but taking obvious design cues from men's tailoring."

Banana Republic creative director Marissa Webb helps you stay on top of trends in 2015. / PROVIDED

Make trout part of your healthy eating plan

PROVIDED

Recipe. This easy dish has a satisfying crunch without frying.

There are few healthier choices you could make for the new year than switching some of your usual proteins for fish. Trout is low in calories and rich in B-complex vitamins, amino acids and potassium to support those workout resolutions.

And the best part: This fish won't make your apartment smell like a seaside market.

"Trout doesn't have that heavy, fishy smell because it's a freshwater fish. Pungent fish fillets usually have saltwater origins," says chef Brando de Oliveira of Florian Cafe in Manhattan.

Plus, the toasted almond crust has its own nutty aroma, and gives your taste buds the same satisfaction as frying but without the added fat. "Almonds give the same crunch as breadcrumbs, but have heart-healthy nutritional value and flavor," Oliveira says.

EVA KIS
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Recipe. Florian's Almond-Crusted Trout

Ingredients

Coating:

- ½ cup sliced almonds, lightly toasted
- ¼ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 1 fillet (4-5 oz.) trout
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 oz. clarified butter

Sauce:

- ½ lemon, juiced
- Pinch minced parsley, plus more for garnish
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- ¼ cup crabmeat (Florian uses peekytoe)
- ¼ cup fried shallots, for garnish
- 1 tbsp. fried capers, for garnish

Directions for the trout:

1. Roughly chop half of the almonds and mix together with breadcrumbs and lemon zest; set aside.
2. Season trout with salt and pepper, then coat in egg wash. Press fish in almond breadcrumbs; set aside.
3. In a nonstick pan, heat butter until very hot; add fish and sear on both sides until golden brown and cooked through, about 1-2 minutes per side. Transfer fish to a plate and reserve.

Directions for the sauce:

1. In the same pan, add lemon juice, parsley and pepper flakes; season to taste. Toss crabmeat in sauce and remove from heat.
2. To serve, drizzle sauce on a plate and top with trout, crab meat, shallots, fried capers and parsley.

Tip

An even healthier option

Bake the trout rather than sear it — the crust will still be crispy, and you can save the butter for your breakfast.

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Aries | March 21-April 20. Don't let things get you down. Set a goal that will help you to experience something new. Until you challenge your capabilities, you won't know your limits.

Taurus | April 21-May 21. Make a blueprint for your professional future. Direct your energies with precision and stick to your agenda.

Gemini | May 22-June 20. Your hard work is paying off, and your life goals are within reach. You will advance to the next level and make new goals.

Cancer | June 21-July 22. Positive changes lie ahead, but legal or investment contracts need to be dealt with first. Consider the consequences involved if you sign an agreement without careful inspection.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. You will feel relief once you have dealt with pending issues. Take care of responsibilities to more truly enjoy simpler pleasures.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Procrastination will be your downfall. Problems can be cleared up once you figure out what's really bothering you. Take action.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. This is your time to shine. Take control and plan a gathering or fun event. Love is looking hot, and put greater emphasis on personal achievements.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Opposition will come from an unlikely source. Don't trust someone claiming to have your best interests in mind.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. An entertaining approach will help you sell whatever you are trying to offer. Showing off a little will help you beat out any competition you face.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. An interesting adventure is imminent. Someone you thought gone will resurface. Fresh schemes will bring positive results. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	1				2			
	9		5	3	6			2
	5			1		6	4	
1	7	3						5
				4				
8						9	2	3
	3	7		6			5	
2			3	9	7		1	
			2				9	

7	4	8			3			
3		5	9		4			
	9							6
6				5				1
	2	4				6	9	
1				4				3
4							5	
			1		5	3		4
			4			1	2	9

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Can't have civil rights and ignore them too

How is it not insincere for many to celebrate MLK Jr. Day, when he was a consistent lawbreaker who refused to listen to police orders? If he were alive today, the police and DAs and press would be calling him an "agitator," beating him up, and jailing him. New York's Pat Lynch and his ilk don't hail the marchers TODAY for fighting for civil rights. They are fully against civil rights and they denounce these civil disobedients. Lynch even says he hates the Bill Of Rights and that no one should ever question police. The NYPost acts like they now love MLK Jr., when nothing could be further from the truth. These people are still oppressing black people to this very day. And I think the police force is worse than the KKK, specifically because it DOES have black people in it. The black cops are even more racist than the white police, because they're trying to show off that they don't care about race and care more about police. Us vs them. I think you can't have it both ways. Is it wrong or right to defy police when the laws they enforce are wrong? The press hail MLK now, for his breaking the law, but they just spent the past five months telling us to always obey the police.
UCHENA SHOREY, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**

Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Frog step
5 Flashlight output
9 Brown pigment
14 Problem with hives
15 "— — Old Cowhand"
16 Merrily
17 Roman legion
18 Floor model
19 Comics orphan
20 Traps a trout (2 wds.)
22 Year-end rewards
24 Hunt or Ronstadt
26 Oklahoma town
27 Mole's job
30 Managed (2 wds.)
35 Best-seller, usually
36 Feeling
37 German industrial region
38 Belly dance lute
39 Most bleached out
42 Luxury resort
43 Sappho's verse
45 "By Jove!" (2 wds.)
46 Censor
48 Did not go over (2 wds.)
50 Hair foam
51 Slippery customer
52 Ogling
54 Soothe
58 Kitchen herb
62 Matches
63 Light greenish-blue
65 Culture dish goo
66 Long-plumed heron
67 Tolled
68 Percussion instrument
69 Nobles
70 Flyleaf
71 Teamwork obstacles

Down
1 Fibber, plus
2 Raison d'—
3 Crowning point
4 Ms. Diller
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6 Improve upon
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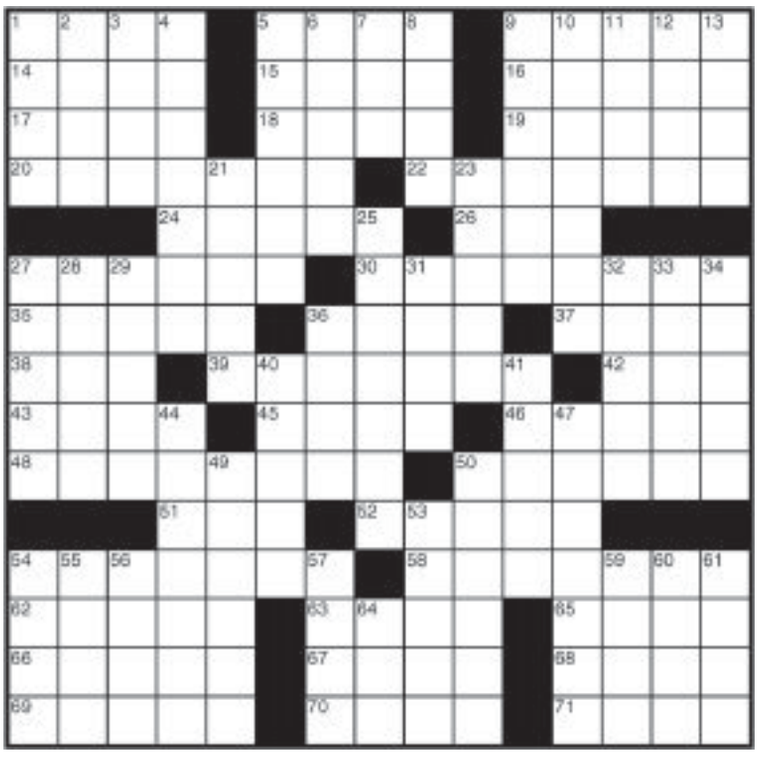
40 Sledding places
41 Carnivore's delight (hyph.)
44 Rained ice
47 Traveler's need
49 Luaus
50 Optical illusion
53 Teenaged
54 "Green Mansions" hero
55 Kelly's possum
56 Cat's murmur
57 Dodge City marshal
59 Psyched up
60 Prefix for "second"
61 Assns.
64 Sine — non

Yesterday's answer



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Woody finally gets it right

OPINION

KRISTIAN DYER

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Kristian Dyer is a columnist and the New York Jets beat writer for Metro.

Jets owner Woody Johnson was a "man on a mission" when it came to hiring the team's new coach and general manager. / GETTY IMAGES

For three weeks now, New York Jets owner Woody Johnson has been paging his inner Robert Kraft in a series of moves that has united a fan base and has seen billboards turned black. His bold thinking and willingness to learn from his past mistakes has shown the jaded fans of this team that his ownership is finally moving forward.

The past four seasons have seen the Jets without a playoff appearance and no one has taken more heat for that than Johnson, who seems to be an easy target around these parts. It was Johnson who was blamed for the megacontracts given out prior to the 2010 season and it was Johnson who was blamed for that Tim Tebow trade three seasons ago. And it was Johnson who this past fall saw a movement that blamed him for the hiring of general manager John Idzik, as fans clamored for the Jets owner to sell the team.

But in recent weeks, Johnson has turned that ire and angst into pure gold with the hiring of general manager Mike Maccagnan and head coach Todd Bowles. Not that either was a big-name hire, the sexy pick or even the popular pick.

Rather, it was how Johnson handled himself and conducted this process that is finally beginning to turn around the court of public opinion with regards to this owner. This week, the Jets will formally announce their new general manager and head coach and their names will dominate the headlines. But the story of Johnson and his growth as an owner is the more significant development this offseason for Jets fans.

For Johnson, who with his glasses and slight frame, is often seen walking around training camp with a straw hat on his head and dressed in a white shirt and khakis as if he was ready for the country club, always seemed a bit detached from the reality of this team. The Jets fan base tends to have a blue collar approach to their support of this team and the billionaire Johnson always seemed to struggle to connect with those diehards. His sound bites haven't helped this perception as he often bristles at criticism rather than provide a relieving quote to the media.

Plainly, it doesn't help that he doesn't look like a "football guy." He didn't sound like a "football guy." Instead, he seemed like the rich kid at the end of the lunch table who bought brownies for everyone seated around him to buy himself friends. The Jets were his ticket to popularity, many fans openly thought, and not his real passion. This was a toy for him, they mused, and he couldn't care less about winning and losing.

Recent weeks, however, have shown someone dedicated to this team and to the fans. And also a man willing to learn from his mistakes. The search was thorough and far-flung, looking at the favorites and the relative unknowns for coach and GM. Johnson was beyond active in all of this. He let Charley Casserly and Ron Wolf come up with the list of names, then he took the lead. He was present for every interview, sources tell Metro, and not a single candidate left before four hours had ticked away. Johnson asked the most questions and was the most direct, people inside that room say, and he was described as a "man on a mission."

Super Bowl XLIX

Patriots' road to Arizona was a bumpy one

The Patriots played like a team that belongs in the Super Bowl this past Sunday. The Colts, well. ... Andrew Luck is a promising young player. Making good teams look awful is something these Patriots have done all season. They are battle-tested, having gone through a brutally tough stretch of the schedule against some the game's best teams, and winning most of them.

The Patriots crushed the Bears, Broncos, Colts, and Lions. Off a narrow loss to the Packers in Green Bay, they beat the Chargers in San Diego. Regardless of how these teams looked at the end of their respective seasons, they were tough outs at the time. In the divisional round, the Ravens gave it their all, too. It's those games that have built the Patriots into a powerhouse with just one game left to play.

"Yeah, I think as hard as it was week after week — we had about a six, seven-week stretch there where it seemed like every team was at the top of their division and playing really well," Patriots head coach Bill Belichick said. "In the end it probably served us well. We had great competition all year. We played a lot of really good football teams and some great defenses, great defensive lines, front sevens, some great quarterbacks, great receivers."

What about the Seahawks? Have they had a similar grind? Not quite.

After starting the year 6-4, Seattle rattled off six straight wins to close the season — but hold on. Those teams included Arizona twice, San Francisco twice, Philadelphia, and St. Louis. Philadelphia aside, those are some terrific defenses, but very bad offenses. Ryan Lindley, Colin Kaepernick, and Shaun Hill don't exactly scream competition at the quarterback position.

Tom Brady? He screams plenty out there.

Yes, the Seahawks defense is scary — just ask the Packers. But Seattle hasn't seen a team more prepared for combat than these Patriots are. **JAMES TOSCANO**

Tom Brady will be playing in his sixth Super Bowl. GETTY IMAGES

3 SPORTS

MLB

Yankees back on WPIX

WPIX, Channel 11, will broadcast 21 Yankees games in 2015, according to Sports Business Daily. A select number of Mets games are already shown on the station, but Yankees telecasts will not affect the broadcasts of those games in the short term. The Yankees' TV deal with WWOR expired at the end of last season. All of the games that will be shown on WPIX will be produced by YES Network and will feature Michael Kay as the play-by-play man. Yankees pitchers and catchers report to spring training Feb. 20.

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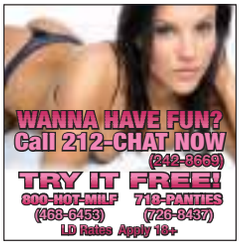

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, number 1283117 for Restaurant Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 170 E. 118th Street New York, NY 10035 for on-premise consumption. MI COMEDOR LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Serial # 1283333 for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 279 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215. Kings County, for on premise consumption. Fifth & First LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending for On Premise Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 357 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211 for on-premise consumption. J & B Bedford Capital Inc. d/b/a Brickhouse Pizzeria

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Serial # 1283587 for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 128 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11249. Kings County for on premise consumption. El Barrio Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 369 New York Ave., Huntington, NY 11743, for on-premise consumption. TOA USA Corp. d/b/a TOA Asian Fusion.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1283306 for Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 55 East 59th Street, New York, NY for on-premises consumption. Zion Farm LLC d/b/a Delmonico Gourmet Food Market.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1283517 for Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 390 5th Ave., New York, NY for on-premises consumption. 390 Cafe Inc. d/b/a W Cafe.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending for Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 40-26 Union Street, Flushing, NY for on-premises consumption. Yummy Szechuan House Inc.

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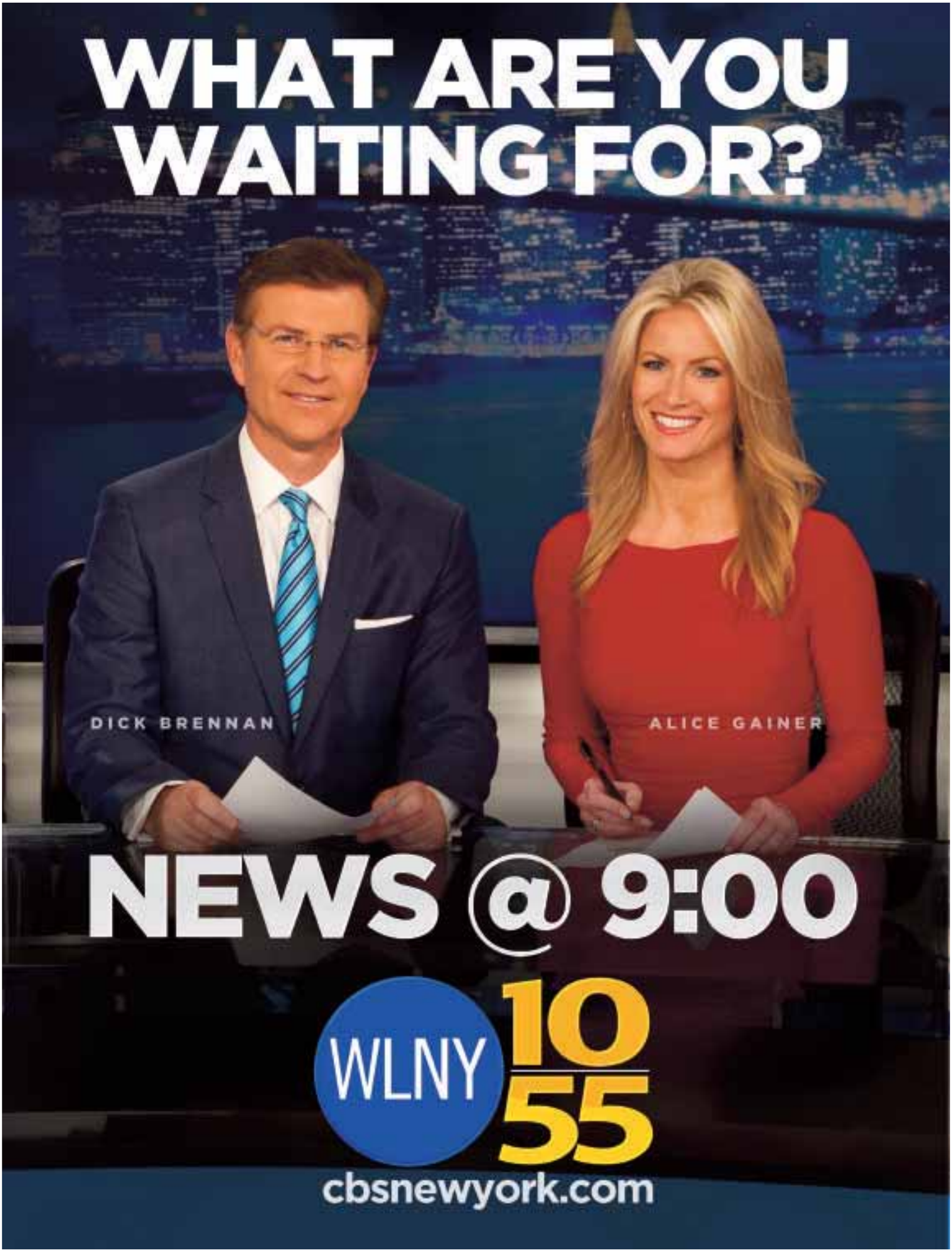
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